

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In Partnership with Governor Beshear's Higher Education Work Group

November 12, 2008

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Capitol Annex, Room 386, Frankfort, KY

MINUTES

Advisory Committee Members:

Present:

Chair, Chris Crumrine
Johnathon Boles
Tara Cairns
Alex Combs
Katherine "Kodi" Faine
Jacob Fowles
Michael Harmon
Tyler Montell

Sharon Murphy
Jacob Raderer
Matthew Ruark
Kevin Smiley
Luke Taylor
Rudy Spencer (by phone)
Kara Mantooth (by phone)
Rachel Meyers (by phone)

Absent:

Gabe Cronon
Bradley Harn
Jeremy Lane
Linda Parker

Call to Order

Chris Crumrine, Student Representative, Council on Postsecondary Education

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by the Advisory Committee Chair Chris Crumrine.

Introduction of Work Group Members

The members introduced themselves.

Introductory Remarks

Jonathan Miller, Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet

Secretary Miller described two major events that took place during the fall season: the economic downturn and the high voter turnout among the youth. We have learned that we must provide these young people with the tools they need to become leaders in the 21st Century. We need a good education system to compete, but a major obstacle to overcome in achieving this is cost. The Student Advisory Committee is charged with two tasks: brainstorm ideas for lowering costs, and act as ambassadors to each member's respective higher education community. The committee must help create and garner student support for the recommendations made by the Higher Education Work Group. Secretary Miller also encouraged the members to utilize free technology (Facebook, email, MySpace, etc) to help spread the word.

Overview: Purpose and Scope of Work, Timelines, Outreach to Students, Forums and Internet

Corey Kline, Finance & Administration Cabinet

Corey Kline introduced herself as spearheading the administrative support for the Student Advisory Committee and the Higher Education Work Group. Any requests for information or assistance can be directed toward Corey. The Advisory Committee will present its list of issues for discussion to the Affordability Subcommittee at its first meeting.

College Affordability in Kentucky

Dr. Richard Crofts, Interim President, Council on Postsecondary Education

Dr. Crofts gave a Power Point presentation on the context and situation of higher education in Kentucky. In business terms, postsecondary education is one of the largest, if not the largest, industry in Kentucky, with \$4.2 billion in total revenue, and 19,000 full-time faculty and staff. He pointed out that Kentucky is below the national average in terms of college-enrolled students and college graduates. Approximately 55% of Kentucky students graduate from college debt-free, but those who do take out loans graduate with approximately \$15-17,000 in debt. He also pointed out that the more educated a population is, the more money the population can make (including those without college degrees). An educated population is also healthier and less likely to go to prison. He noted that the most "dramatic" piece of information in his presentation was that a student with low academic scores and a high income were just as likely to go to college as students with high academic scores and a low income. The financial aid system is convoluted and intimidating, especially for first generation college students. There is a lot of aid available, but no simple way to find it. Kentucky has continued to provide state funding for postsecondary education, but the funding ratio (state versus student share) has declined from 67% to 51% since FY98. Since 1999, funding for postsecondary education has increased by only 43%, while funding for other policy areas has increased as much as 72% and 87% (Justice and Public Safety and Medicaid benefits, respectively). Kentucky is no longer a low tuition state; it is now above regional and national averages for college tuition. Some potential strategic planning issues include creating a new road map to achieving the 2020 reform goals of House Bill 1; providing adequate, long-term, predictable state support; defining state versus student share of reform costs; developing a long-term tuition and financial aid strategy; building a stronger alignment of state appropriation, tuition, and financial aid; implementing a productivity agenda and accountability measurements; and establishing stronger links between funding and performance. Some potential affordability issues include addressing rising costs for students and institutions; increasing transparency and public awareness of costs associated with higher education; easing the transferability of credits; decreasing student debt; efficiently publicizing and utilizing federal, state, and institutional financial aid; increasing college savings; accelerating learning and credits-to-degree; and assessing developmental education. The full presentation is available online at the [Higher Education Work Group website](#).

Kentucky's Chamber of Commerce: *Task Force on Postsecondary Education Report* (Dec. 2007)

Representative of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Allyson Hamilton of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce presented the report published in 2007 by the KY Chamber's Task Force on Postsecondary Education. She talked to the group about the Guaranteed Affordability Program (G.A.P.), a model of affordability proposed by the Task Force, which includes a student's income, a family's income, loans, and the state's contribution.

Discussion

The floor opened up for discussion, and the following ideas were mentioned as potential issues to study and present to the Affordability Subcommittee:

- **Textbook costs.** It would be much more efficient for students to know their required textbooks before classes begin. This allows for students to "shop around" for the best deal.
- **Professors should post their syllabi online during registration periods.** Making the syllabi available online during registration, students can better understand which classes they are registering for, which helps curb "class shopping" and wasted resources. It also helps students shop around for better deals on books.
- **Tax relief.** Students should get a tax break for all costs associated with college, not just tuition. There should also be a tax incentive for remaining in Kentucky after graduation.
- **Strengthen secondary education system.** Students in are inadequately prepared for college, both academically and financially. Students should have better advising assistance regarding applying for college and financial aid.
- **Increase public awareness.** There are many resources that already exist that are being left on the table. We should work to increase awareness of those resources.
- **Room and board.** In most cases, the cost of room and board at a higher education institution is higher than the cost of living in the area. It is cheaper to live off campus than live on campus, but there is no financial aid for off-campus living arrangements.
- **Meal plans.** The costs of meal plans appear to be inflated, and most of the time, leftover money or meals cannot roll over to the next semester, costing students that money.
- **Joint purchasing.** Universities should work together and with the state to find the best deals possible regarding procurement.
- **Predictable state funding.** The universities should be able to count on a constant and predictable stream of state funding. This will help universities build better and more predictable budgets.
- **Work-study.** Universities should strengthen their work-study programs to help get students through college.
- **Time-to-degree.** Spending extra time in college beyond what is necessary is the most expensive problem students face. Academic programs at all universities should provide 4-year plans to help guide students to a four year graduation date.

All of the above ideas and concerns will be presented to the Affordability Subcommittee as issues of priority.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.